

**What is claimed is:**

**1. A system for allowing a plurality of players to enter and participate in a player-elimination poker tournament utilizing up to T poker tables designated tables T(1) to T(T), each poker table having up to P player positions designated P(1) to P(P), said system comprising:**

**a central processing unit;**

**at least one main console; and**

**a plurality of first signal transmitting means for allowing each main console and said central processing unit to send signals to each other and to receive signals from each other;**

**at least one main console further comprising entering player information accessing means; and**

**said central processing unit responding to the entering player information accessed by said accessing means for initially randomly assigning each entering player to a specific player position chosen from P(1) to P(P) at a specific poker table chosen from T(1) to T(T).**

**2. In the system of claim 1, said central processing unit storing the accessed entering player information, the initially assigned player position, and the initially assigned poker table for each player entering the tournament .**

**3. In the system of claim 1, said central processing unit effecting the re-assignment of at least one randomly chosen player from at least one donor poker table to at least one donee poker table such that the resulting number of players assigned to each poker table differs by no more than a specified maximum difference.**

**4. In the system of claim 3, said central processing unit storing the player re-assignment history for such donor and donee poker tables.**

1       **5. In the system of claim 1, said central processing unit effecting the re-assignment**  
2       **of at least one player from at least one donor poker table to a donee poker table**  
3       **such that the resulting number of players assigned to such donee poker table is**  
4       **equal to the maximum number of players allowed at any poker table.**

5  
6       **6. In the system of claim 5, said central processing unit storing the player re-**  
7       **assignment history for such donor and donee poker tables.**

8  
9       **7. In the system of claim 1, said central processing unit effecting the re-assignment**  
10       **of all players from a donor poker table to at least one donee poker table, such that**  
11       **the resulting number of players assigned to all poker tables differs by no more than**  
12       **a specified maximum difference, such that the resulting number of players assigned**  
13       **to each poker table is equal to or less than the maximum number of players allowed**  
14       **at any poker table, and such that the donor poker table is closed or deactivated after**  
15       **such player re-assignments.**

16  
17       **8. In the system of claim 7, said central processing unit storing the poker table**  
18       **closure history for such donor poker tables.**

19  
20       **9. In the system of claim 1, said central processing unit having a pre-stored**  
21       **tournament schedule.**

22  
23       **10. In the system of claim 1, said central processing unit having a pre-stored**  
24       **tournament pay-off schedule.**

25  
26       **11. In the system of claim 1, said central processing unit having a pre-stored betting**  
27       **limit schedule.**

28  
29       **12. In the system of claim 1, said central processing unit having a pre-stored forced**  
30       **ante schedule.**

1       **13. In the system of claim 3, said central processing unit storing the accessed player**  
2       **information, the latest re-assigned player position, and the latest re-assigned poker**  
3       **table for each player remaining in the tournament.**

4  
5       **14. The system of claim 1 also comprising:**

6               **a secondary central processing unit; and**  
7               **second signal transmitting means for allowing said secondary central**  
8       **processing unit and said central processing unit to send signals to each other and to**  
9       **receive signals from each;**  
10              **said secondary central processing unit responding to said central processing**  
11       **unit for continually storing all the information being stored in said central**  
12       **processing unit.**

13  
14       **15. In the system of claim 1, at least one main console further comprising display**  
15       **means.**

16  
17       **16. In the system of claim 15, at least one main console also further comprising**  
18       **selective actuating means for causing said main console display means to display**  
19       **selected information stored in said central processing unit.**

20  
21       **17. In the system of claim 16, at least one main console also further comprising**  
22       **display clearing means for clearing the information being displayed on said main**  
23       **console display means.**

24  
25       **18. In the system of claim 15, at least one main console also further comprising**  
26       **printing means.**

27  
28       **19. In the system of claim 18, at least one main console also further comprising**  
29       **means for causing said main console printing means to print the information being**  
30       **displayed on said main console display means.**

1  
2 **20. In the system of claim 1, said entering player information accessing means being**  
3 **swiping reading means.**  
4

5 **21. In the system of claim 1, said player information entering means being a**  
6 **magnetic reading means.**  
7

8 **22. The system of claim 1 also comprising:**

9 **a dealer console at each poker table; and**

10 **a plurality of third signal transmitting means for allowing the dealer console**  
11 **at each poker table and said central processing unit to send signals to each other**  
12 **and to receive signals from each other.**  
13

14 **23. In the system of claim 22, the dealer console at each poker table further**  
15 **comprising display means.**  
16

17 **24. In the system of claim 23, the dealer console at each poker table also further**  
18 **comprising selective actuating means for causing its dealer console display means to**  
19 **display selected information stored in said central processing unit.**  
20

21 **25. In the system of claim 24, the dealer console at each poker table also further**  
22 **comprising display clearing means for clearing the information displayed on said**  
23 **dealer console display means.**  
24

25 **26. In the system of claim 24, at least one main console also further comprising**  
26 **display means and dealer console selective actuating means for causing said main**  
27 **console display means to display such dealer console selected information stored in**  
28 **said central processing unit.**  
29  
30

1       **27. In the system of claim 23, the dealer console at each poker table also further**  
2       **comprising printing means.**

3  
4       **28. In the system of claim 27, the dealer console at each poker table also further**  
5       **comprising means for causing its dealer console printing means to print the**  
6       **information being displayed on its dealer console display means.**

7  
8       **29. In the system of claim 22, said central processing unit activating the dealer**  
9       **console at each initially assigned poker table .**

10  
11       **30. In the system of claim 22, the dealer console at each poker table further**  
12       **comprising dealer information accessing means; said central processing unit storing**  
13       **such accessed dealer information, the dealer log-in time, the dealer log-out time, and**  
14       **the dealer's assigned poker table .**

15  
16       **31. In the system of claim 22, the dealer console at each poker table further**  
17       **comprising eliminated player information accessing means, said central processing**  
18       **unit storing such eliminated player information accessed by the dealer console at**  
19       **each poker table.**

20  
21       **32. In the system of claim 31, said central processing unit storing for each player**  
22       **eliminated from the tournament the player information, the last assigned player**  
23       **position; and the last assigned poker table.**

24  
25       **33. In the system of claim 23:**

26               **the dealer console at each poker table further comprising betting order**  
27               **entering means;**

28               **said central processing unit storing the betting order received from the**  
29               **dealer console at each poker table; and**

30               **the dealer console at each poker table further comprising means for causing**

1        **its dealer console display means to display the betting order at its poker table.**

2  
3        **34. The system of claim 1 also comprising:**

4                **a plurality of up to P player consoles at each poker table; and**  
5                **a plurality of fourth signal transmitting means for allowing each player**  
6        **console at each poker table and said central processing unit to send signals to each**  
7        **other and to receive signals from each other.**

8  
9        **35. In the system of claim 34, each player console at each poker table further**  
10        **comprising display means.**

11  
12        **36. In the system of claim 35, each player console at each poker table also further**  
13        **comprising selective actuating means for causing its player console display means to**  
14        **display selected information stored in said central processing unit.**

15  
16        **37. In the system of claim 36, each player console at each poker table also further**  
17        **comprising display clearing means for clearing the information being displayed on**  
18        **its player console display means.**

19  
20        **38. In the system of claim 36, at least one main console also further comprising**  
21        **display means and player console selective actuating means for causing said main**  
22        **console display means to display such player console selected information stored in**  
23        **said central processing unit.**

24  
25        **39. In the system of claim 35, each player console at each poker table also further**  
26        **comprising printing means.**

27  
28        **40. In the system of claim 39, each player console at each poker table also further**  
29        **comprising means for causing its player console printing means to print the**  
30        **information being displayed on its player console display means.**

1  
2 **41. In the system of claim 34, said central processing unit activating each initially**  
3 **assigned player console at each initially assigned poker table.**

4  
5 **42. The system of claim 33 also comprising:**

6 **a plurality of up to P player consoles at each poker table, each player console**  
7 **further comprising display means; and**

8 **a plurality of fourth signal transmitting means for allowing each player**  
9 **console at each poker table and said central processing unit to send signals to each**  
10 **other and to receive signals from each other;**

11 **each player console at each poker table also further comprising means for**  
12 **causing its player console display means to display the betting order at its poker**  
13 **table.**

14  
15 **43. In the system of claim 34, the player consoles at each poker table being**  
16 **removably attached to such poker table and being distributed to accommodate the**  
17 **players at such poker table.**

18  
19 **44. In the system of claim 22, the dealer console at each poker table being removably**  
20 **attached to such poker table and being located to accommodate the dealer at such**  
21 **poker table.**

22  
23 **45. In the system of claim 1, each main console being removably attached to its**  
24 **associated support structure.**

1       **46. In the system of claim 31, said central processing unit comparing such stored**  
2       **eliminated player information relative to the minimum number of players allowed**  
3       **at any poker table for re-assigning at least one randomly chosen player from at least**  
4       **one donor poker table to replenish a donee poker table that has less than such**  
5       **minimum number of players allowed at any poker table.**

6  
7       **47. In the system of claim 46, such donor poker tables being preferably chosen in**  
8       **order according to the pre-stored table sequence T(T) to T(1).**

9  
10       **48. In the system of claim 46, such donee poker table being preferably chosen**  
11       **according to the pre-stored table sequence T(1) to T(T).**

12  
13       **49. In the system of claim 31, said central processing unit comparing such stored**  
14       **eliminated player information relative to the cumulative number of players**  
15       **remaining at all poker tables for randomly re-assigning all the remaining players**  
16       **from a donor poker table to re-fill or replenish one or more donee poker tables and**  
17       **for closing such donor poker table.**

18  
19       **50. In the system of claim 49, such donee poker tables being preferably chosen in**  
20       **order according to the pre-stored table sequence T(1) to T(T).**

21  
22       **51. In the system of claim 49, such closed donor poker table being chosen according**  
23       **to the pre-stored table sequence T(T) to T(1).**

24  
25       **52. In the system of claim 31, said central processing unit comparing such stored**  
26       **eliminated player information relative to the maximum difference in the number of**  
27       **players remaining at the most populated poker tables relative to the least populated**  
28       **poker table for re-assigning at least one randomly chosen player from at least one**  
29       **most populated donor poker table to replenish such least populated donee poker**  
30       **table.**



1       **53. In the system of claim 52, such most populated donor poker tables being**  
2       **preferably chosen in order according to the pre-stored table sequence T(T) to T(1).**

3  
4       **54. In the system of claim 52, such least populated donee poker table being**  
5       **preferably chosen according to the pre-stored table sequence T(1) to T(T).**

6  
7       **55. In the system of claim 31, said central processing unit responding to such stored**  
8       **eliminated player information accessed by the dealer console at each poker table for**  
9       **re-assigning at least one randomly chosen player from at least one donor poker**  
10       **table to replenish a donee poker table in order to make the number of players at**  
11       **such donee poker table equal to or one less than the maximum number of players**  
12       **remaining at any other poker table, such donor poker tables remaining open after**  
13       **such player re-assignment is effected.**

14  
15       **56. In the system of claim 55, said chosen player re-assignment being preferably**  
16       **effected as to such donor poker tables according to the pre-stored table sequence**  
17       **T(T) to T(1).**

18  
19       **57. In the system of claim 55, said chosen player re-assignment being preferably**  
20       **effected as to such donee poker table according to the pre-stored table sequence T(1)**  
21       **to T(T).**

22  
23       **58. In the system of claim 31, said central processing unit responding to such stored**  
24       **eliminated player information received from the dealer console at each poker table**  
25       **for randomly re-assigning all the players from a chosen donor poker table to re-fill**  
26       **or replenish at least one donee poker table in order to make the number of players**  
27       **at any poker table other than such chosen donor poker table equal to the higher or**  
28       **lower of two consecutive numbers, such chosen donor poker table being closed after**  
29       **such player re-assignments are effected.**

30  
31       **59. In the system of claim 58, said player re-assignments being preferably effected as**

1 to such chosen donor poker table according to the pre-stored table sequence T(T) to  
2 T(1).

3  
4 60. In the system of claim 58, said player re-assignments being preferably effected as  
5 to such donee poker tables according to the pre-stored table sequence T(1) to T(T).

6  
7 61. In the system of claim 7, said central processing unit storing the player re-  
8 assignment history for such donor and donee poker tables.

9  
10 62. In the system of claim 5, said central processing unit storing the accessed player  
11 information, the latest re-assigned player position, and the latest re-assigned poker  
12 table for each player remaining in the tournament.

13  
14 63. In the system of claim 7, said central processing unit storing the accessed player  
15 information, the latest re-assigned player position, and the latest re-assigned poker  
16 table for each player remaining in the tournament.

17  
18 64. In the system of claim 1, said central processing unit having a pre-stored little  
19 blind and big blind schedule.  
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